

help finding affordable rentals, and some case management. RRH is widely credited with a steep nationwide reduction in family homelessness.

Among homelessness services providers, the operative maxim is: "it's a marathon, not a sprint!" This pandemic will last well into calendar year 2021, and they know their workload will likely get even heavier. Therefore, it is imperative that the federal government sufficiently resource those providers through enactment of Section 201.

2. Section 202 would authorize the establishment of \$1 billion in emergency housing vouchers which could provide permanent housing to homeless Americans, those at risk of becoming homeless, as well as those escaping from domestic violence. With respect to homeless families and individuals, specifically, these vouchers could be used to provide safe spaces to those most vulnerable to the virus—the elderly, the disabled, and the sick—who need deeper subsidies. Additional funding beyond what is provided here will be needed to ensure a permanent housing solution for all homeless people who are elderly or have serious disabilities, and we look forward to working with you to fulfill this need.

3. Section 101 would establish a \$100 billion rental assistance fund in order to prevent a wave of homelessness from sweeping across the nation and overwhelming homelessness services providers. Many renters, who were already spending unsustainable amounts of their incomes on rent, are incurring significant arrearages during state and federal eviction moratoria, and they are in danger of eviction when those moratoria expire.

Your legislation offers homeless and unstably-housed Americans hope and inspiration during this terrible time, so thank you for your extraordinary leadership.

Sincerely,

STEVE BERG,  
Vice President for Programs and Policy,  
National Alliance to End Homelessness.

#### BMW PRODUCES 5 MILLION

#### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, South Carolina has become America's number one exporter of autos with the success of BMW and now enhanced with new Volvo production and Mercedes vans. With the vision of the late Governor Carroll Campbell who recruited BMW, thousands of jobs have been achieved at BMW and its suppliers.

The achievements of 5 million produced by BMW was highlighted by The Columbia Business Report of June 22nd:

BMW MANUFACTURING PASSES PRODUCTION  
MILESTONE

BMW has made 5 million vehicles in Spartanburg County.

The milestone U.S.-made BMW is a red X5 M Competition equipped with a 617-horsepower M TwinPower Turbo V-8 engine, according to a news release. It was completed June 5 and will remain at the factory to become part of the BMW history collection. Others in the collection include the first car made at the plant.

"You cannot be successful in business if you do not have great products and great people," Knudt Flor, president and CEO of BMW Manufacturing, said in the news release. "This BMW X5 M Competition is a symbol of the success of our products and

the commitment and dedication of our associates and supplier network. Every BMW X5 in the world comes from Plant Spartanburg. We are proud to call South Carolina home."

More than half of the BMW vehicles sold in the United States are built at Plant Spartanburg, according to Bernhard Kuhnt, president and CEO of BMW of North America.

"We cannot overstate the importance of Plant Spartanburg to our sales network," he said in the news release. "BMW Group has long considered the United States to be our second home and we are proud to say that the U.S. is in fact home to the biggest BMW plant in the world. We congratulate our colleagues on this historic achievement."

BMW celebrated 25 years of manufacturing in the Upstate last year, when it built a record 411,620 vehicles. Nearly 70% of the plant's production was exported from 2010-2019. Last year's value of exports was \$9.6 billion, more than any other U.S. carmaker for the sixth consecutive year, according to the news release. The plant has expanded seven times, with \$10.6 billion in investment, and has 11,000 workers on site.

"BMW changed the very fabric of our state's economy when it decided to locate in South Carolina nearly three decades ago," Gov. Henry McMaster said in the release. "That this great company built its 5 millionth American-made vehicle in Spartanburg should be a source of great pride for our people and a reason for celebration. It's one more example of South Carolinians sharing in the success of a company that has become an integral part of our state because of its dedication to our people."

#### HONORING ALEXANDER TWILIGHT

#### HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the birth of a trailblazing Vermonter, Alexander Lucius Twilight, and to honor his legacy. Alexander was not only the first African American to graduate from a U.S. college or university, but the first African American to serve in a state legislature. In recognition of his contributions and his legacy as a trailblazer, the Vermont legislature passed a resolution in June 2020 marking his birthday, September 23, 2020, as Alexander Twilight Day.

Alexander was born on September 23, 1795 to mixed-race parents. His father, Ichabod Twilight, fought with the Second New Hampshire Regiment in the Revolutionary War. After the war, Ichabod and his wife, Mary, moved to Bradford, Vermont.

Vermont's 1777 constitution prohibited adult slavery, but the letter of the law was not reflected in practice. In the decades following Vermont's acceptance as the 14th state, Black children were still held as slaves and all Black Vermonters continued to face the threat of being kidnapped and sold out of state. Against this backdrop of widespread discrimination, Twilight graduated with a bachelor's degree from Middlebury College in 1823. He is the first known African American to receive a bachelor's degree from any U.S. college or university.

After he graduated, Twilight became a teacher and a minister. He moved to New York to teach and married Mercy Ladd Merrill.

Soon after, he returned to Vermont to run the Orleans County Grammar School in Brownington. To accommodate increasing enrollment, he organized the funding and construction of a new school building to house and educate students. He also served as the local pastor, delivering sermons decrying slavery and supporting temperance. His sermons reveal a man of strong convictions, who viewed human history as a progression towards greater individual freedom guided by conscience.

In 1836, Twilight became "the first" again, this time as the first African American elected to serve in a state legislature. He continued to teach at the Orleans County School and in Quebec until 1855, when a stroke left him paralyzed. He died two years later, on June 19, 1857. The next year, Vermont passed a complete ban on slavery, declaring that anyone who entered the state was free.

Today, Twilight's house, the school where he taught, and the dormitory he built still stand as part of the Old Stone House Museum in the Brownington Historic District. His legacy as an educator lives on through the Museum, where his ideals are reflected in the museum's educational programs, community services and his personal collection. Twilight's memory is etched in Vermont's higher learning institutions, such as Middlebury College's Alexander Twilight Hall and Alexander Twilight Auditorium at Northern Vermont University—Lyndon.

I hope that Alexander Twilight will continue to be remembered and celebrated as a pioneer who persevered against long odds. He should also serve as a reminder of how far we have come as a nation, and how far we still have to go to achieve equality for all Americans, regardless of skin color, race or ethnicity.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote in person due to a family commitment. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 130.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF RAY PETERSEN'S DECADES OF REMARKABLE PUBLIC SERVICE TO UTAH

#### HON. JOHN R. CURTIS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. Ray Petersen on a remarkable career of indispensable service to the great State of Utah. By virtue of Ray's enduring commitment to overseeing proper land management practices, Emery County flourishes with beauty and opportunity. The residents of Emery County, and the countless visitors who enjoy the region, have Ray to thank for his 18 years as Emery County's Public Lands Administrator, and his lifetime of public service to rural Utah.

Ray has dedicated his career to addressing critical rural issues. As a fourth-generation

resident of Emery County, Ray understands well the challenges facing rural communities and the profound impact that federal, state, and local policy decisions have on the livelihoods of so many. In his role as Emery County Public Lands Administrator, Ray was consequential in assisting policymakers—from the county commission to the federal government—reconcile differences and find solutions for the county's land management, whose expansive plans fall heavily under state and federal domain.

Sustained opportunity and access to Emery County's lands are paramount for its economic vitality, particularly to its agriculture, recreation and tourism industries, and its local mining, gas and oil development. Ray has helped these key local industries navigate the challenges and opportunities of land management issues, to find compromise and success.

A fitting final accomplishment to his career, Ray was instrumental in helping Utah's congressional delegation secure a victory for Emery County and the state's public lands as the Emery County Public Lands Management Act was signed into law. This legislation marked the culmination of years of collaboration and cooperation with local partners and officials, ensuring ongoing uses will be enjoyed in Emery County without fear of a potential national monument designation from D.C., and consolidation of Utah trust lands that will generate millions in revenue for our school kids. It also included long-sought local land transfers to meet city government needs while expanding Goblin Valley State Park, a truly unique place that will now be better managed for future generations.

Ray Petersen has championed rural lands issues of extraordinary significance to Utah throughout his esteemed career. Our great state owes him a debt of gratitude for three decades of selfless public service. I thank Ray.

CONGRATULATING MS. ELIZABETH  
CARR

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 1, 2020*

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Elizabeth Carr for receiving the 2020 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award presented by Humanities Texas.

Humanities Texas presents annual statewide awards to encourage excellence in teaching and recognize Texas teachers who have made exemplary contributions in teaching, curriculum development and extra-curricular programming. Ms. Carr was one of 16 teachers selected to be recognized, competing against an application pool of over 700 educators. Along with this prestigious award, Ms. Carr will also receive a \$5,000 prize and a supplementary sum of \$1,000 designated to help her school further humanity-based education.

Ms. Carr has been a teacher for almost fifteen years, and currently teaches U.S. History and World Geography at South Texas ISD Medical Professions High School. Her work to promote high-quality and equitable education to students in my district is admirable and critical in ensuring our students are well-prepared once they complete high school.

Madam Speaker, I send my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Elizabeth Carr for earning the highly prestigious Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award. Her dedication to her students and passion for the humanities is commendable, and her contributions to South Texas students and the school district will reverberate for years to come.

INVESTING IN A NEW VISION FOR  
THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUR-  
FACE TRANSPORTATION IN  
AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 30, 2020*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act.

I want to thank Chairman DEFazio, Chairwoman NORTON and Chairman LIPINSKI for their tremendous work on the Surface Transportation portions of this bill. I would also like to thank the leadership for including water provisions from my Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, and thank Chairman GRIJALVA for including my water recycling bill from the Natural Resources Committee in this package.

Mr. Speaker, the surface transportation section of this bill will make a significant impact in improving American lives by reducing commute times, increasing safety on our highways, bridges, buses and rails, and improving our environment.

As the senior Californian on the Committee, I am proud that this bill will provide \$37.5 billion in transportation funding for California, including \$26.5 billion for Highway projects and \$11 billion for Transit.

H.R. 2 includes important provisions I have worked on to improve transportation in the San Gabriel Valley, California, and our nation. These provisions are:

A new Transit Worker Protection Program providing \$60 million per year for transit agencies to work with transit unions to identify and implement transit worker safety measures such as bus driver barriers and blind spot removals. This will improve security and safety for all passengers, the bus drivers, and pedestrians. This program is based on my bill H.R. 1139, the Transit Worker Protection Act.

The bill includes a provision to allow local transportation agencies and cities to give preference to our local residents when hiring workers for transportation projects. With Southern California raising incredible funds for local transportation projects, taxpayers in our region should be given preference to work on the local projects they are paying for. This will allow that.

\$2.5 billion for a new highway rail underpass construction program (known as a grade separation grant program). This was created after we had the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments testify earlier this year regarding the importance of highway rail safety and the very successful Alameda Corridor East underpass construction program in my region. This will create important safety and commuter benefits by separating the rail line from the roadway.

\$1.725 billion for electric bus purchases. This is important to Foothill Transit and LA METRO in my district who are rapidly purchasing electric buses for their fleet. It also helps these transit agencies with funding the electric charging infrastructure and the maintenance of these new-age buses. This will also support the workers in the electric bus industry including my constituents who work at Proterra bus company in Industry, CA. We must continue to improve the air quality of our region with clean bus implementation.

\$7 billion for bicycle, pedestrian, and safe routes to school projects. Many of the residents and cities in the San Gabriel Valley use this funding to improve bike trails and walkways that allow students and workers to safely get to school, work, and the Metro station or bus stop.

The bill updates competitive grant funding requirements for transportation grants so that projects in the San Gabriel Valley have a better chance of being selected based on the merit of their applications. Southern California transportation projects such as the 57/60 confluence project and the Alameda Corridor East Highway Rail grade crossing separation projects are the highest ranked projects in the country but consistently get overlooked because of politics. This bill makes the grant requirements more associated with project quality and less by politics.

The bill allows states to use federal transportation funds to build suicide barriers on bridges. Studies show that the vast majority of suicides on bridges are because of a sudden impulse, and if a barrier were erected the person would not continue with a suicide attempt. This is based on my bill with Rep. BEYER of Virginia called the Barriers to Suicide Act (H.R. 4309).

The bill includes a provision that would require the Department of Transportation when working with local agencies on transit oriented development projects to address homeless housing assistance. The expansion of the Gold Line in my district has created important housing opportunities for residents that could be used to also address the homeless crisis we are facing in the San Gabriel Valley.

The bill creates a Truck Driver Leasing Task Force that is based on a bill I introduced last Congress, H.R. 4144, the Port Truck Driver Bill of Rights. This will focus federal regulators and policy experts on creating solutions to controversial leasing arrangements in the trucking industry that are especially found at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. These illegal tactics by some trucking companies underpay truck drivers by forcing them into leasing arrangements that require them to work long hours without abiding by minimum wage laws, let alone reasonable pay and benefits. This task force will address these unfair practices against workers.

The bill allows electric vehicle charging stations at park-and-ride lots and rest areas located along the highway. Federal law currently prohibits electric vehicle charging stations at these locations and my provision will fix that. This is a huge problem at 20 park-and-ride lots in Los Angeles County including the El Monte Bus Station in my district, which is the largest bus transit station on the West coast. Electric vehicles owners should be allowed to drive to the metro station and charge their car while taking transit.

The bill stops the Trump Administration from threatening to withhold \$250 million annually